

Application No. 10/528,352
Amendment "A" dated April 17, 2008
Reply to Office Action mailed October 15, 2007

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A stent system for placement in a body lumen which is expandable from a contracted state to an expanded state, comprising:

a stent having an exterior surface, an interior surface and side surfaces, wherein at least a portion of the exterior surface and the interior surface is roughened to a predetermined extent for coating with a drug, wherein the surfaces are roughened by sandblasting.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The stent system according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the side surfaces is roughened to a predetermined extent.

4. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 3 ~~4~~, wherein the exterior surface, the interior surface, or the side surfaces are coated with Tacrolimus as the drug loaded directly to the roughened surface.

5. (Original) The stent system according to claim 1, wherein the said stent comprises a stainless steel.

6. (Original) The stent system according to claim 1 further comprising a balloon catheter for delivering the stent.

7.-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) The stent system according to claim 1, wherein the roughened surface is prepared by sandblasting with at least one of sand, glass beads, or corundum.

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22. (New) The stent system according to claim 21, wherein the sandblasting removes imperfections from the roughened surface.
23. (New) The stent system according to claim 21, wherein burrs are removed from the stent before sandblasting such that the sandblasting produces a roughened more uniform surface with increased flow dynamics and less turbulence.
24. (New) The stent system according to claim 23, wherein the removing of burrs comprises removing the imperfections by electropolishing.
25. (New) The stent system according to claim 21, wherein the sandblasting includes sand.
26. (New) The stent system according to claim 21, wherein the sandblasting includes glass beads.
27. (New) The stent system according to claim 21, wherein the sandblasting includes corundum particles.
28. (New) The stent system according to claim 27, wherein the roughened surface includes the corundum particles.
29. (New) The stent system according to claim 28, wherein the roughened surface with corundum particles is different from a normal sandblasted surface.
30. (New) The stent system according to claim 28, wherein the roughened surface with corundum particles is characterized by cavities in the roughened surface being formed with less depth than cavities formed from normal sandblasting.
31. (New) The stent system according to claim 28, wherein the roughened surface with corundum particles is coating with Tacrolimus.

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32. (New) The stent system according to claim 31, wherein the Tacrolimus is coated onto the roughened surface by spraying the drug on said surface.

33. (New) The stent system according to claim 32, wherein the stent is annealed after the surface has been roughened so as to increase the flexibility of the stent.